



Thoreau Society Bulletin

ISSN 0040-6406

Number 276

Fall 2011

Leading a *Walden* Book Discussion Group: A How-To

John Rowen

The Guilderland Public Library is a medium-sized library in the town of Guilderland, a suburb of Albany, New York. In 2009, Mary Alingh, a reference librarian at the library, began a Thursday evening book discussion group where members read books on the 100 Greatest Books of the Century list. Mary invited me to lead a discussion of a favorite book. After reading through several single-spaced pages of the greatest books list, I found *Walden* and chose it instantly.

Several days after choosing *Walden*, I began to feel like “the dog that chased the car and caught it.” This saying of my friend, Rich Brustman, is short-hand for the surprise and discomfort accompanying success in a pursuit that was chosen before all the consequences were considered. First, I had never led a book discussion group: what if people had too many difficult questions—or no one talked? Second, I realized I could not go back to my past and get help from the two men who made me so enthusiastic about *Walden*: Jim McHugh my high school English Teacher in senior year and Wallace Williams my English professor at Indiana University. I was not sure how to find Mr. McHugh and Wallace died several years ago.

With my name on a public program, however, I had to overcome the anxiety and move ahead. In doing so, I realized that in fact I did have resources to draw on:

- Since college, I had re-read *Walden* several times.
- I recalled that another re-reading would be easy because it was a “short” book.
- Before agreeing to lead the discussion, I had read Robert Smith’s *The Thoreau You Do Not Know* and W. Barksdale Maynard’s *Walden Pond: A History*.
- There was likely to be information about *Walden* book discussion groups online.
- Thoreau Society membership provided access to research sources and helpful people.

With these in mind, I began getting ready. From re-reading *Walden*, I had notes about favorite passages. I particularly enjoyed Thoreau’s quote about how he led a life where he was “an inspector of snow-storms and rain-storms” and a surveyor of “forest paths,” and I resolved to share this quote.¹ Having read “Civil

Disobedience” and *Walden* in Mr. McHugh’s class during the Vietnam War, I wanted to discuss Thoreau’s social activism. And, recalling Wallace Williams speaking clearly and enthusiastically about the dual meanings and puns in *Walden* made me realize I wanted to share Thoreau’s wit.

(As an example of this wit, I wanted to use an idea that surfaced a few years ago when my wife, Dorothy, and I were having dinner with our friends Dennis and Georgia. Over appetizers, we came up with the idea of a “transcendental martini.” The transcendental martini came closer to reality when I mentioned it in a letter to Bob Clarke, the Thoreau Society’s Membership Director at the time. Bob wrote back: “How do you make a martini transcendental except by drinking it?”)

I had a good start, but my impression that *Walden* was a “short” book was quickly corrected. My college edition of the book, a Norton Critical Edition, is 224 pages long. The edition used for the discussion group, annotated and edited by Thoreau scholar Walter Harding, is 321 pages. While this surprise at the length added preparation time, I got through the book, with six pages of new notes.

With *Walden* re-read, I began choosing concepts, facts, quotes, personal experiences, and questions for a set of talking points I would take to the group. Some people who speak about books can speak off the cuff, with a few notes and a book with quotes flagged with Post-Its. However, I need to write things out to understand how much time it will take to cover points of interest and to see where a discussion might go. Dorothy, who is a reference librarian, helped me track down more about *Walden*. In particular, she found new information for me about Walter Harding and his scholarship.

The Internet was not initially much help. However, I since have revisited the Internet, with the query “*Walden* and book discussion groups.” This brings up 450,000 items. Many are announcements of book discussion groups, the first several are

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Notes

ran up my clothes, and along my sleeve, and round and round the paper which held my dinner while I kept the latter close, and dodged and played at bo-peep with it; and when at last I held still a piece of cheese between my thumb and finger, it came and nibbled it, sitting in my hand, and afterward cleaned its face and paws, like a fly, and walked away.¹⁶

Thoreau is amazed by “how many creatures live wild and free though secret in the woods, and still sustain themselves in the neighborhood of towns.”¹⁷ Wildness is not as distant as student readers might imagine that it is. He also notes, “You only need sit still long enough in some attractive spot in the woods that all its inhabitants may exhibit themselves to you by turns.”¹⁸ Here, students often overlook how Thoreau cleverly reverses the paradigm from “The Village”: instead of the villagers suffocating a newcomer whom they turn “wild,” the “Brute Neighbors” happily remain the center of the stranger’s domesticating gaze.

The passage where Thoreau surveys an ant battle on his woodpile, while less peaceful, is ultimately no less domesticated. Thoreau comfortably compares the ants’ war to American history by remarking that they must be fighting for some principle greater than avoiding “a three penny tax on their tea.”¹⁹ He also incorporates the ant warriors to the Western literary canon by naming one lingering ant a Homeric “Achilles, who had nourished his wrath apart, and had now come to avenge or rescue his Patroclus.”²⁰

Only when describing the loon at the end of the chapter does Thoreau pierce the domesticating veil that he has draped over his wild neighbors. He begins by comparing the loon’s evasiveness to a human opponent at a homely board game, as he writes: “Suddenly your adversary’s checker disappears beneath the board, and the problem is to place yours nearest to where his will appear again.”²¹ However, his ultimate failure to catch the “silly,” but also wildly “demoniac” bird convinces him of the limits to his interpretive abilities.²² Even so, the loon never entirely loses the characteristics of a human opponent, as Thoreau concludes, “he laughed in derision of my effort.”²³ Thoreau’s puncturing of his own domesticated perspective on nature serves as a reminder that he—as well as his potential readers—imposes such a perspective on nature simply by seeing it. Students in an American survey course will realize that just like the narrator at the end of Stephen Crane’s “The Open Boat,” Thoreau knows that the innate feeling one can be an “interpreter” of nature is not the same thing as actual understanding.²⁴

Through comparing how Thoreau renders his human neighbors more “wild” in “The Village” and makes his animal neighbors more domestic in “Brute Neighbors,” students in an American survey course can become more receptive to Thoreau’s ironic voice. Students are often reluctant to accept Thoreau’s writing because they are challenged by his irony, which can cause them to find him confusing at best and arrogant at worst. However, the contrasting patterns in these two chapters reveal that Thoreau is not always charitable towards nature and critical of humanity. Like William Cronon, Thoreau wants his readers to celebrate the “wildness in our own backyards” and the nature found in “the place[s] where we actually live” rather than wishing human influence away.²⁵ From Thoreau’s perspective, which he acknowledges is only his own, gossiping human beings are as much a part of nature as friendly mice or war-like ants.

¹ William Cronon, “The Trouble with Wilderness; or, Getting Back to the Wrong Nature.” *Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the Human Place in Nature*. (New York: Norton, 1995), 89.

² Henry David Thoreau, *The Writings of Henry David Thoreau: Walden* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1971), 317–318.

³ Thoreau, 140, 211.

⁴ Thoreau, 167.

⁵ Thoreau, 167.

⁶ Thoreau, 167.

⁷ Thoreau, 167.

⁸ David F. Wood, *An Observant Eye: The Thoreau Collection at the Concord Museum* (Concord, Mass.: Concord Museum, 2006), 29–30, 24.

⁹ Thoreau, 8.

¹⁰ Thoreau, 168.

¹¹ Thoreau, 169.

¹² Thoreau, 225. Jeffery S. Cramer, ed., *Walden: A Fully Annotated Edition* (New Haven, Ct.: Yale UP, 2004), 216. Cramer’s note explains Thoreau’s allusion here.

¹³ Thoreau, 232.

¹⁴ Thoreau, 232.

¹⁵ Thoreau, 225.

¹⁶ Thoreau, 225–226.

¹⁷ Thoreau, 227.

¹⁸ Thoreau, 228.

¹⁹ Thoreau, 230.

²⁰ Thoreau, 230.

²¹ Thoreau, 236.

²² Thoreau, 236.

²³ Thoreau, 236.

²⁴ Stephen Crane, “The Open Boat.” *Great Short Works of Stephen Crane* (New York: Harper and Row, 1968), 302.

²⁵ Cronon, 86.



Flint's Bridge

Photographer: Alfred Hosmer.

Collection: The Lewis C. Daves Collection at the Thoreau Institute at
Walden Woods

A Visit from Henry David Thoreau

Kevin Radaker
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Kevin Radaker is Professor of English and Chair of the English Department at Anderson University in Anderson, Indiana. Since 1991, he has presented his portrayal of Thoreau over 400 times throughout the United States. He has performed at universities, colleges, libraries, conferences, state and national parks. In addition, his "Thoreau" has been a part of summer Chautauqua tours in the Great Plains states ('91, '92, '93), Missouri and Illinois ('97 and '98), Massachusetts ('98), the Carolinas and New Hampshire (2001), Oklahoma (2003), Maryland (2004), Ohio (2008), and Colorado (2008, 2011). In 2009, as part of the "John Brown and New England" program, he offered his "Thoreau" on the 150th anniversaries of Thoreau's spirited defense of John Brown in Concord, Boston, and Worcester, Massachusetts.

For praise of his program, see the "praise" page on his website: www.thoreaulive.com
For video clips of a 2004 performance in Maryland, see the homepage of his website.

Pages from a Thoreau Country Journal

J. Walter Brain

October 18th, 1998

*O hushed October morning mild,
Begin the hours of this day slow.*

"October," Robert Frost

To Walden, in the light of a new day. The surface of the pond, becalmed and reflective of a pale sky and of warm autumnal hues along its wooded banks, subdued at this early hour, imparts a pensive mood that pervades the saunterer's soul. From the height of Heywood's Lot at the pond's East End, Walden stretches for the onlooker along its east-west axis, the water hemmed in by wooded hillsides, Fair Haven Hill looming beyond unruffled.

Sweet Birches, *Betula lenta*, have shed most of their leaves by now, their crowns bare and spectral against the light, chestnut-brown strobiles poised to the sky. Trekking down the pond's south side, along what Thoreau termed the "scalloped shore" with its succession of coves and capes, the light brightens rapidly and kindles October's foliage color. A small maple leaf, ruby red, appears suspended in mid air, caught in a spider web that quivers at the slightest breath, as though the preying host had metamorphosed first into leaf and then into heartbeat.

A young Double-crested Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax auritus*, its plumage light grayish to white on neck and breast, alights on the still half-lit Emerson's Cove. It swims round cocksure letting me feel as the intruder in the place. I play the game, though I refuse to rush my pace, indulging in the autumnal beauty of foliage round the cove, particularly in the golden and russet tints of leaves still clinging to Red Maples, *Acer rubrum*, aslant the water, or farther on, in the clear yellow leaves that Gray Birches, *Betula populifolia*, have not yet let go.

Vistas continue to open up as my steps lead me past the Littlest Cove, a pretty and intimate spot at all seasons, and round the Railroad Bay to the Ice Fort Cove, in the pond's West End. Along the way, a young White Ash, *Fraxinus americana*, detains me that I may delight not only in the beauty of its yellow, even ruddy, leaves, but in the play of pond-reflected light as it ripples across the underside of the foliage. A spree of American Goldfinches, *Carduelis tristis*, drifts by singing matins in praise of Matuta Mater, goddess of Morning, whose temple in ancient Rome's Forum Boarium, the cattle market by the Tiber, would suit our New England pastoral conceit.

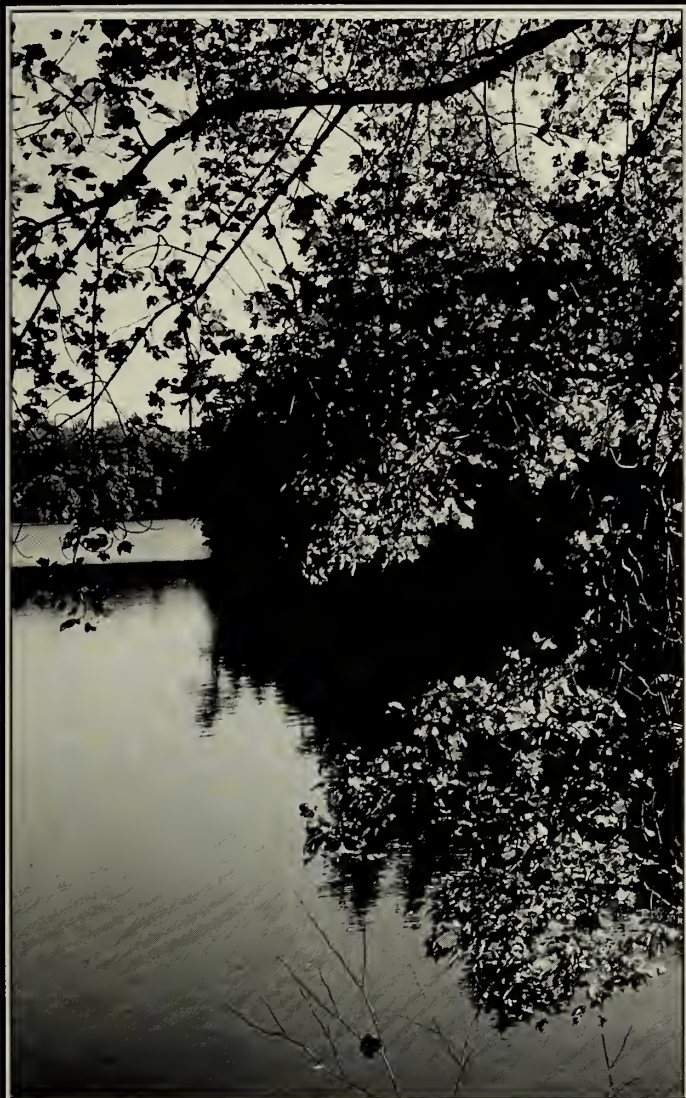
[Ed. Note: Article continues on page seven. All photographs are from author and were taken October 18, 1998.]



Pine boughs over Thoreau's Cove



Pine Hill as seen from Ice Fort Cove



Emerson's Cove



Early Morning Reflections from Southeast Cove

Approaching Ice Fort Cove, thickets of Red-panicle Dogwood, or Gray Cornel, *Cornus racemosa*, appear in fruit with showy clusters of white drupes on red-stalked cymes, one more gift from October's cornucopia. The array of fall foliage hues at Ice Fort Cove affords a luxury the eye will not want to miss, a beauty that Nathaniel Hawthorne thought "indefinable" on his visit to this "the most beautiful cove of the whole lake" on an October day in 1843. Maple foliage colors range from gold to rose-pink to scarlet and to deep red. The grayish-white trunks of Gray Birches impend from the cove's banks in the morning slant of light, showers of golden leaves set against the blue-green surface of the cove as seen from the high path along its southwestern hillside. Oak foliage remains green, however besmirched yellow, nut brown, or russet, the water reflecting every tint.

Hawthorne's winsome cove affords rich scenery not only of its own, but that of the pond as a whole, views opening to the south shore, and far to the pond's East End, the docile profile of Pine Hill looming over. Rounding the cove's cape towards Thoreau's Cove, dense coverts of Sweetfern, *Comptonia peregrina*, still impregnate the air with their spicy and pungent scent. Not a fern, this shrub belongs to the Bayberry family, *Myricaceae*, together with Northern Bayberry, *Myrica pensylvanica*, thickets of which one comes across farther down the western shore path, its leaves releasing also a tangy aroma. The western path, flooded with sunshine by midmorning, feigns lead the walker into some Arcady, an embowered alley of light and color. Summersweet, or Sweet Pepperbush, *Clethra alnifolia*, whose leaves, earlier in the morning along the southern shore, had impressed me with a pale, spectral yellow, perks up in the splash of sunshine to golden splendor, the leaves radiating light and color round them, the morning all aglow. Blue Jays, *Cyanocitta cristata*, also perk up, emphatic in plumage and voice, from the hillside at Hubbard's Owl Wood.

At Thoreau's Cove, the water scintillates in drifts, sheets of molten silver spreading outward to the main of the pond. Black Tupelos, *Nyssa sylvatica*, standing or leaning by the easterly bank of the cove, have shed their leaves entirely. How surprising then, to come upon a stand of trees of the same species with nearly full heads of foliage up in the dappled shade of the woods, the foliage tinted a gorgeous golden orange dabbled with a little rouge. From Thoreau's Cove, I ramble round Wyman Meadow, its wooded shores a riot of fall color. One tall Red Maple, in particular, stands incandescent red in the sun, its mirrored image on the water meadow the more stunning. Thickets of Common Highbush Blueberry, *Vaccinium corymbosum*, line the shoreline, their leaves tinted deep crimson. Up on the hillsides of the watery amphitheater, hickories, mainly Shagbark Hickory, *Carya ovata*, and Sweet Pignut Hickory, *Carya ovalis*, have turned their foliage deep yellow, brilliant in the sun. In fact, much of Heywood's Ridge along the north side of the pond appears ablaze in yellow flames from the prevalence of hickory trees along the south-facing flank of the ridge.

Up Heywood's Peak, on a brief sunny glade, I come by a tall clump of Melilot or White Sweet Clover, *Melilotus alba*, a common Old World legume still in blossom, tiny white florets on slender spikes letting off a heady honey-sweet scent reminiscent of long gone estival days.

§ § § § § § §

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"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived." WALDEN by Henry D. Thoreau

Invitation to attend 2012 Annual Gathering
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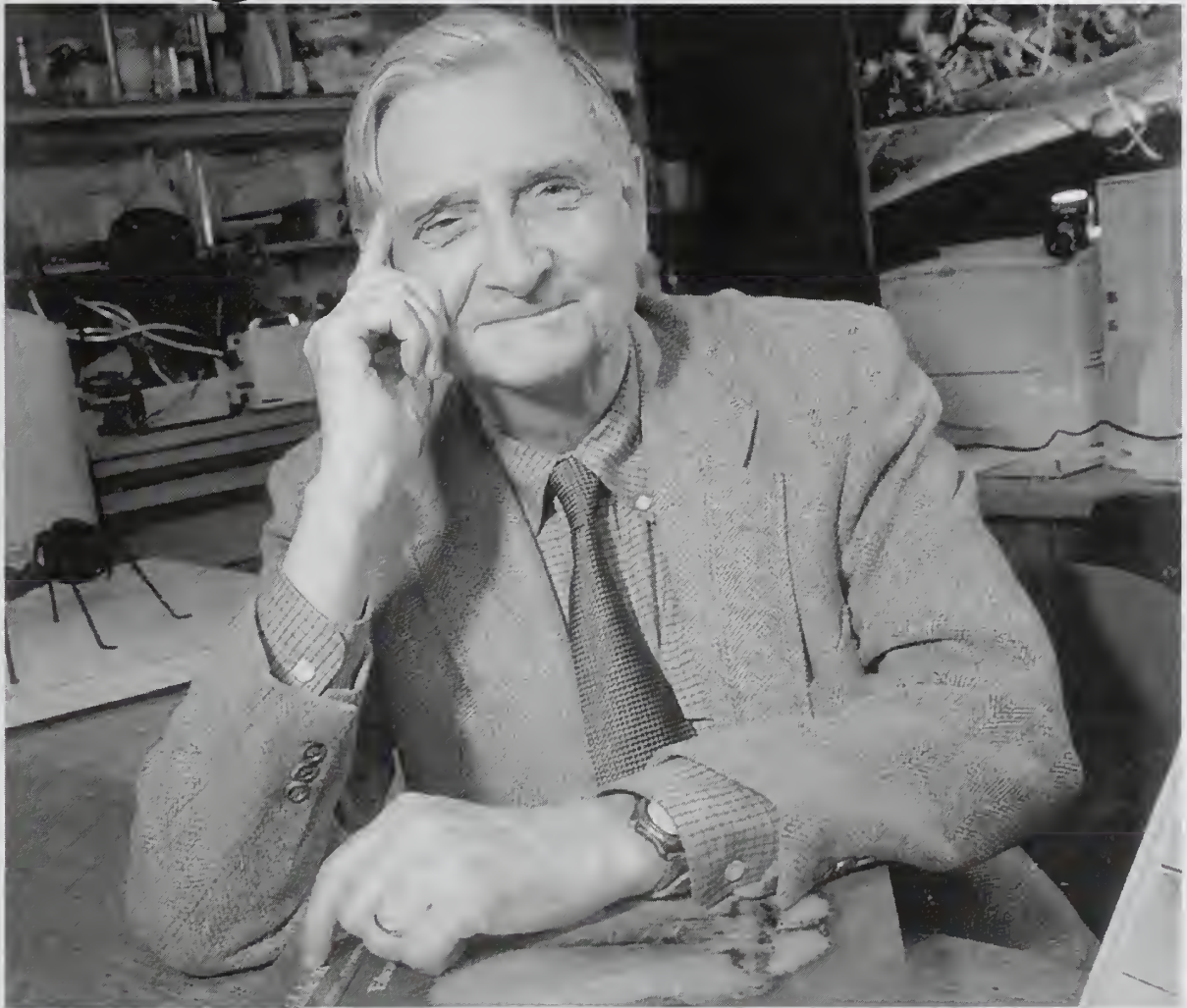


Photo: Jim Harrison, Wikimedia Commons

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Meals & Reception

Thoreau Institute	# Persons	Recommended Donation	Amount
Saturday Evening Reception	_____ @	\$20-60	\$ _____
Meals provided by La Provence, 2008 Winner Best of Boston West, Restaurant/Gourmet Takeout.			
Lunches	# Meals	# Meals	Cost
Friday	_____ As listed	_____ Vegetarian	_____ @ \$12
Rice Salad; Three-Bean Salad; Roast Turkey Sandwich; Lemon Square; Soft Drink; or Vegetarian, Vegetable Quiche			
Saturday	_____ As listed	_____ Vegetarian	_____ @ \$12
Tomato, Mozzarella and Basil Salad, Grilled Vegetable Salad, Artichoke Salad; Chicken Tabbouleh; Bread and Butter; Brownie; Soft Drink; or Vegetarian, Stuffed Grape Leaves			
Dinners	# Meals	# Meals	Space is limited for dinners.
Friday	_____ As listed	_____ Vegetarian	_____ @ \$30
Spinach with Feta & Walnut Dressing, Stuffed Sole w/ Mushroom Sauce; Fresh Carrots; Rice Pilaf; Chocolate Cake; Iced Tea, Lemonade, Coffee; or Vegetarian, Mushroom Risotto			
Sat Buffet	_____ As listed	_____ Vegetarian	_____ @ \$30
Chicken Marbella; Salmon with Champagne Sauce; Vegetable Frittata; Lyonnaises Potatoes; Green Beans; Carrot Cake; Iced Tea, Lemonade, Coffee			
Sun Buffet	_____ As listed	_____ Vegetarian	_____ @ \$30
Mixed Garden Salad, Roast Stuffed Loin of Pork with Prune and Fig Sauce; Tofu Lasagna; Sweet Potatoes au Gratin; Ratatouille; Tiramisu; Iced Tea, Lemonade, Coffee			

Limited Space

	# Persons	Cost	Amount
Concord Museum - Thoreau Collection	_____ @	Free	
Thoreau's Illustrated Atlas - Presentation	_____ @	Free	
Concord Library - Special Collections Tour	_____ @	Free	
Old Manse - Drinking Gourd	_____ @	Free	
Gate Post - Ghost Tour	_____ @	Free	
Van Service To/From the Thoreau Institute	_____ @	Free	
Canoeing Concord River	_____ @	\$25	\$ _____
Orchard House - School of Philosophy	_____ @	Free	

T-Shirt

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Thursday, July 12, 2012

6:45-9:15 am **Join Peter Alden**, naturalist and author of several Audubon field guides, on a trip to **Estabrook Woods**. Meet in Christian Science Lot behind Masonic. Carpool.

9:30-3:30 pm **Registration & Refreshments**

10:30-Noon **Workshops I & II** Masonic

1. Panel Discussion: (Main Floor)
 - *Thoreau's Late Manuscripts: Notes and Charts of Concord*, Jessie Bray and Kristen Case
2. Panel Discussion: (Downstairs)
 - *Thoreau's First Ecological Text: "A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers,"* Richard Schneider
 - *A Philosophy of Narrative Synthesis: Uniting 21st Century Scholars Through Narrative*, Tyler Reeb
 - *Thoreau's Needed America*, Alben Bakratheva

Noon **Lunch on your own**

1:30-3 pm **Workshops III & IV** Masonic

1. Presentation: (Main Floor)
 - *Walking Home From Walden*, Wen Stephenson
2. Panel Discussion: (Downstairs)
 - *Implementing Thoreau's Teaching Rubric*, Ronald Pesha
 - *I Shall Never Be Rid of Henry*, Eric Earnhardt
 - *Thoreau: Speaking Without Bounds*, Caleb Sanders

3:30-5 pm **Workshops V & VI** Masonic

1. Panel Discussion: (Main Floor)
 - *So Far Heaten: Thoreau's Missionary Memoir and the Communities of "Walden,"* Jerome Tharaud
 - *The Whole Earth is a Cemetery*, Aaron Sachs
 - *Henry David Thoreau as Environmentalist and Preservationist*, J. William T. Youngs
2. Panel Discussion: (Downstairs)
 - *Thoreau's Names for Concord Places: An Evolving Gazetteer*, Dennis Nosen
 - *Japanese Acceptance of Emerson and Thoreau: Uchimura's, Doppo's and Shiga's Views of Nature*, Taeko Fujita
 - *Thoreau Presentation*, Nikita Pokrovsky

3:30-5 pm **Tour The Thoreau Collection at Concord Museum**, David Wood, Curator

5:00-7 pm **Bring Your Own Picnic, Thoreau Farm**

7:30-9 pm **Ralph Waldo Emerson Society Panel & Reception Following** Masonic

10:30-Noon **Workshops VII & VIII** Masonic

1. Panel Discussion: (Main Floor)
 - *He Traveled a Good Deal: Promoting Thoreau Country Beyond Concord's Borders*, Thomas Conroy, Corinne H. Smith, Alan B. Rohwer, Paul Johnson, and Dale R. Schwie
2. Panel Discussion: (Downstairs)
 - *An Elegant Ecology: The Mind of Nature in The Dispersion of Seeds*, Ron Balthazor
 - *Thoreau and the Natural Selection Debate in North America During the Mid-1800s*, John F. Barthell
 - *Beyond Anthropocentrism: The Evolution of Thoreau's Metaphor*, Diana Allen

Noon **Lunch from La Provence** Masonic

1-2:30 pm **Workshops IX & X** Masonic

1. Presentation: (Main Floor)
 - *Thoreau's Observations of Flowering and Leaf-out Times, Bird Arrival Times, and Ice-out Dates Can be Used in Modern Climate Change Research*, Richard Primack
2. Panel Discussion: (Downstairs)
 - *Thoreau Meets Whitman, and Other Poems and Inspirations*, Howard Nelson
 - *Take Shelter Under the Cloud: The Sukkah at Walden Pond*, Natasha Nataniela Shabat

1-2:30 pm **Workshop XI** CFPL

3. Presentation: Concord Free Public Library, Trustees Room.
 - *Thoreau's Illustrated Atlas*, Allan Schmidt
 Pre-registration required.

3-4:30 pm **Workshops XII & XIII** Masonic

1. Panel Discussion: (Main Floor)
 - *Re-considering Thoreau's "wooden men"; Thinking about Soldiers and Intellectual Culture in America*, Michael Stoneham
 - *A Different Drummer: Thoreau and the Personality-Culture Clash Hypothesis*, Jason McMahan
2. Panel Discussion: (Downstairs)
 - *Postmodern Thoreau: A Sparkling Stream of Consciousness in the Late Journal?*, Randall Conrad
 - *Mock-Classical Revision in Thoreau's Journal*, Robert Klevay
 - *"As Long As She Cracks She Holds" Thoreau's Dying as His Final Text*, Audrey Raden

3-4:30 pm **Tour Special Collections at Concord Free Public Library**, Leslie Wilson

5:30-7 pm **Dinner at the First Parish Church**
Pre-registration required.

7:30-8:30 pm **Transcendentalism, Impressionistic Music, and Music inspired by Thoreau**, Andrew Celentano First Parish

8:45-9:45 pm Ghost Tour provided by Gatepost Tours. Only 15 spots available. Pre-registration required. Meet at First Parish

Friday, July 13, 2012

6:45-9:15 am **Join Peter Alden** on a trip to **Great Meadows**. Meet in Christian Science Lot behind Masonic. Carpool.

7:30-10 am **Join Cherrie Corey** on a walk to **Gowing's Swamp and Thoreau's Bog**. Meet in Christian Science Lot behind Masonic. Carpool.

9:30-3 pm **Registration & Refreshments** Masonic

Saturday, July 14, 2012

6:45-9:15 am **Join Peter Alden** on a trip to **Great Blue Heron colony**. Meet in Christian Science Lot behind Masonic. Carpool.

7:30-1 pm **Following Henry Thoreau's footsteps
in Boxborough, MA— a field trip**

Alan B. Rohwer. Meet in CS Lot behind Masonic Temple. **No
Parking in CS Lot on Sunday.** Use Keyes Rd or other.

7:30-10 am **Exploring the Pencil Factory
Dam Site in Acton, Randall Conrad.** Meet
in CS Lot behind Masonic Temple. **No Parking in CS Lot on
Sunday.** Use Keyes Rd or other.

7:30-10 am **Canoeing on the Concord River**
Deborah Medenbach. Meet at 7 am, Concord
Municipal Lot on Keyes Rd. Carpool.

10:30-Noon **Workshops XVIII & XIX** Masonic

1. Presentation: (Main Floor)
• *Thoreau Futurist*, Connie Baxter Marlow

2. Presentation: (Downstairs)
• *Protecting Paradise: Gowing's Swamp and
Thoreau's Bog*, Cherrie Corey

10:30-Noon **Civil War Walking Tour of Concord, from
Monument Square to Sleepy Hollow Cemetery**, Jayne Gordon,
Director of Education and Public Programs, Massachusetts
Historical Society. Meet at Masonic

Noon-2 pm **Open House and Picnic:
Thoreau Birth House, Thoreau Farm**

2:30-5 pm ***Transcending Time: A Legacy for the ages***
Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House,
School of Philosophy. Pre-registration required.

6-7:30 pm **Dinner Buffet** First Parish
Pre-registration required.

7:30 pm **Memorial: Thoreau's Life, Works & Legacy**
Tom Potter First Parish

Election Nominations

Email: Vananglenkp@aol.com
Mail: 341 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742

All nominations must be postmarked by May 4, 2012

Sunday, July 15, 2012

6:45-9:15 am **Join Peter Alden on a trip to Emerson's Cliff and Fairhaven Bay.** Meet in Christian Science (CS) Lot behind Masonic Temple. **No Parking in CS Lot on Sunday.** Use Keyes Rd or other.

- "Henry David Thoreau," pp. 178-184).
- Luria, Sarah. "Thoreau's Geopoetics." In *GeoHumanities: Art, History, Text at the Edge of Place*. Ed. M. J. Dear, et al. London and New York: Routledge, 2011. 326p. hardcover (ISBN 0415589797), \$134.00.
- Mandel, Peter. "Chatting With Thoreau about Twitter." *Wall Street Journal* (August 1, 2011): A11.
- Mariotti, Shannon. *Thoreau's Democratic Withdrawal: Alienation, Participation, and Modernity*. Reviewed by Rochelle Johnson in *Nineteenth-Century Prose* 38, No. 2 (Fall 2011): 232-235; and by Richard J. Schneider in the same journal, pp. 236-241.
- Marshall, Ian. "On Not Building a Cabin: Notes from Henry Thoreau's Journal, 21st -Century Edition." *The Concord Saunterer: A Journal of Thoreau Studies* n.s. 18 (2010): 108-115.
- McKenzie, Jonathan. "How to Mind Your Own Business: Thoreau on Political Indifference." *New England Quarterly* 84, No. 3 (September 2011): 422-443.
- McRae, Michael. "How the Nomad Found Home." *Outside* (November 2011). On-line.
- Miller, John P. *Transcendental Learning: The Educational Legacy of Alcott, Emerson, Fuller, Peabody and Thoreau*. Charlotte, N.C.: Information Age Publishing, 2011. 154p. hardcover (ISBN 1617355852), \$85.99.
- Mooney, Edward Fiske. *Lost Intimacy in American Thought: Recovering Personal Philosophy from Thoreau to Cavell*. Reviewed by Frank M. Oppenheim in *Theological Studies* 72, No. 3 (2011): 692.
- Morgan, Patrick. "Aesthetic Inflections: Thoreau, Gender, and Geology." *The Concord Saunterer: A Journal of Thoreau Studies* n.s. 18 (2010): 46-67.
- Nelson, Jake. "A Thoreau Inspired Teenage Life." *Thoreau Society Bulletin* No. 275 (Summer 2011): 11-12.
- Potter, Tom. "Building a Thoreau Library." *Thoreau Society Bulletin* No. 275 (Summer 2011): 4-5.
- Powers, William. *Hamlet's BlackBerry: Building a Good Life in the Digital Age*. New York: Harper Perennial, 2011. 288p. papercover (ISBN 0061687170), \$14.99. Has chapter "The Walden Zone: Thoreau on Making the Home a Refuge." Pp. 175-192.
- Raden, Audrey. "'All the Change Has Been in Me': My Life As a Transcendentalist." *The Concord Saunterer: A Journal of Thoreau Studies* n.s. 18 (2010): 116-123.
- Reynolds, Larry J. *Righteous Violence: Revolution, Slavery, and the American Renaissance*. Athens, Ga.: University of Georgia Press, 2011. 264p. papercover (ISBN 0820341401), \$24.95. Has chapter "Contemplation Versus Violence in Thoreau's World." Pp. 112-131.
- Robbins, Paula Ivaska. "The Natural Thoreau." *Gay & Lesbian Review Worldwide*. 18, No. 5 (September-October 2011): 15-17.
- Spratt, Stephen. "When the Soil Was Everything: Unearthing the Agricultural Roots of American Environmental Writing." 2011. University of South Carolina. PhD Dissertation. "[T]his study considers the texts and contexts of the agricultural reform movement as constituting America's first wave of environmental writing. The surge of scholarship in recent years produced by Wendell Berry, Wes Jackson, Steven Stoll, Benjamin Cohen, and Timothy Sweet (to name a few) has recovered the literary mode of the georgic and its agrarian foundation as speaking most presciently to the ecological and cultural challenges of our own era, both in academia and in the 'real' world."
- Stephenson, Wen. "Why Walden Matters Now." *Boston Globe* (September 22, 2011). On-line.
- Sullivan, Mark. "Henry David Thoreau in the American Art of the 1950s." *The Concord Saunterer: A Journal of Thoreau Studies* n.s. 18 (2010): 68-89.
- . *The Thoreau You Don't Know: What the Prophet of Environmentalism Really Meant*. Reviewed by Jon T. Coleman in *Reviews in American History* 39, No. 3 (September 2011): 454-457.
- Thoreau, Henry D. *Journal Volume 7: 1853-1854*. Reviewed by Kristen Case in *Resources for American Literary Study* 34 (2011): 260-263. The volume provides "a number of indispensable tools for tracking [Thoreau's] extraordinary and evolving process as a writer and observer of the natural world."
- . *Natural History Essays*. Layton, Ut., Gibbs Smith. 2011. 288p. hardcover (ISBN 1423622286), \$14.99.
- . *Résistance au gouvernement civil et autres texts*. Marseille: Le mot et le reste, 2011. 64p. papercover (ISBN 2360540203), €8.55.
- Walls, Laura Dassow. "Greening Darwin's Century: Humboldt, Thoreau, and the Politics of Hope." *Victorian Review* 36, No. 2 (2011): 92-103.
- Ward, Geoff. "Thoreau and Creeley: American Words and Things." In *Literature and Authenticity, 1780-1900: Essays in Honour of Vincent Newley*. Ed. Michael Davies, Ashely Chantler, Philip Shaw. Farnham, Surrey [England] and Burlington, Vt.: Ashgate, 2011. 238p. hardcover (ISBN 0754665992), \$99.95.
- Weber, Sandra. *Adirondack Roots: Stories of Hiking, History, and Women*. Charleston, S.C.: History Press, 2011. 128p. papercover (ISBN 1609493648), \$19.99. Has chapter "Going Wild over Thoreau." Pp. 115-116.
- Weir, Edgar. "The Whiter Lotus: Asian Religions and Reform Movements in America, 1836-1933." 2011. University of Nevada, Las Vegas. PhD Dissertation. "This study examines the influence of Asian religions and thought on various reform movements in America, including anti-slavery, labor rights, the alleviation of poverty, women's rights, and the rights of immigrants. The interactions between these two forces will be uncovered and analyzed from 1836, the year Ralph Waldo Emerson's ground-breaking work *Nature* was published, until 1933, the year that Dyer Daniel Lum, the last individual discussed in this work, passed away. . . . The subjects of this study include Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Percival Lowell, William Sturgis Bigelow, Paul Carus, and Dyer Daniel Lum to name a few."
- Winslow, Richard E., III. "Honoring Thoreau, Part 2." *Thoreau Society Bulletin* No. 275 (Summer 2011): 5-8.
- Winspur, Steven. *La Poise du lieu: Segalen, Thoreau, Guillevic, Ponge*. Reviewed by Charles Forsdick in *French Studies* 65, No. 4 (2011): 547-548.
- Woods, Gioia. "Together At the Table: Animal, Vegetable, Miracle and Thoreau's Wild Fruits." In *Seeds of Change: Critical Essays on Barbara Kingsolver*. Ed. Priscilla Leder. Knoxville, Tenn.: University of Tennessee Press, 2010. 320p. hardcover (ISBN 1572337192), \$46.00. Pp. 263-276.
- Wry, Joan. "The Art of the Threshold: A Poetics of Liminality in Emerson, Thoreau, and Whitman." 2011. McGill University. PhD Dissertation. "The thesis first addresses the ways

in which Emerson's key concepts and understandings of spiritual and aesthetic process initiated a widely influential vision of nineteenth-century liminal poetics. Thoreau's very different responses to the Emersonian model of transformation, as it unfolds within the definitive *topos* of the natural landscape, are then considered—first in the liminal spaces of *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers* and *Walden*, and then in the darker allegorical contexts of *The Maine Woods* and *Cape Cod*."

§

We are indebted to the following individuals for information used in this Bulletin: Josh Olivier-Mason, Jym St. Pierre, Richard Winslow, III, and Bob Young. Please keep your editor informed of items not yet added and new items as they appear.

Thoreau's 1849 Land Survey Quarter Acre Miscalculation¹

Allan H. Schmidt

Thoreau worked as a professional surveyor and created over 100 land and property surveys from 1846–60. The Concord Free Public Library (CFPL) curates and provides public access to digital image copies of Thoreau's original land surveys on-line and Thoreau's original "Field Notes of Surveys" on microfilm. Thoreau's earliest surveys on file at the CFPL are his 1846 surveys of Walden Pond's subsurface topography.² Thoreau's Walden Pond work was incorporated in the map products of other surveyors of his time including H.F. Walling's 1852 map of Concord.³

After leaving Walden Pond, Thoreau began keeping his "Field Notes of Surveys Recorded." The first entry in these field notes, according to Thoreau, "contains a description of the outer perimeter" of Isaac Watt's Woodlot.⁴ A photocopy of the microfilm copy on file at the CFPL is shown in the right column of page 12.

On page 11 is an image copy of Thoreau's resulting survey as a 16" x 10" drawing as a composite of two 8" x 10" sheets rotated with North up. (Readers are encouraged visit the CFPL survey image at http://www.concordlibrary.org/scollect/Thoreau_surveys/135.htm. There they will be able to zoom in on the survey by pointing and clicking on specific points on the image.)

The outer perimeter consists of eleven points labeled A to L (no J) that define a series of eleven two point edges. The length of each edge was measured using a surveyor's chain and recorded in units of rods and links. The compass orientation for each edge also is shown.

In order to compute the area of Isaac Watt's woodlot, Thoreau identified and labeled 38 rectangular quarter-acre lots within its perimeter plus 14 odd shaped lots around its periphery. The east corner of the survey image (lower-right, above) includes a column of values for the 14 irregularly shaped lots and a total value. Interestingly, Thoreau made a math error when summing the 14 values.

The 14 irregular lots on the periphery listed and numbered by Thoreau include

92 square rods in lot # 15 (lower right)
58 square rods in lot # 01 (lower left)
70 square rods in lot # 33 (middle left)
65 square rods in lot # 18 (above lower right)
60 square rods in lot # 19+ (above #18)
60 square rods in lot # 44+ (above #19)
70 square rods in lot # 45 (upper right)
60 square rods in lot # 52 (above #45)
140 square rods in lot # 51 (left of #52)
30 square rods in lot # 50 (below #51)
50 square rods in lot # 37 (below left of #50)
62 square rods in lot # 36 (left of #37)
64 square rods in lot # 35 (left of #36)
66 square rods in lot # 34 (left of #35)

Thoreau incorrectly computed the total area for those lots as 907 square rods, which equals 5.66 acres (160 square rods is one acre). The correct sum of the data for the 14 odd shaped lots is 947 square rods, or 5.91 acres, a difference of 40 square rods or a quarter acre undercount by Thoreau.

Within the perimeter Thoreau also identified 38 rectangular quarter acre lots, which he accurately computed to be 9.50 acres. Therefore, his grand total area was 9.50 rectangular quarter acre lots plus 5.66 acres of odd-shaped lots for a total of 15.41 acres, when the actual sum should be 9.50 acres plus the accurate sum of 5.91 acres of odd shaped lots for a total acreage of 15.56. The difference of these sums is 0.25 acre.

In summary, Thoreau undercounted the total acreage of Isaac Watt's woodlot by 0.25 acres on his worksheet, but his survey map is correct in every respect except for his note summarizing the area of the odd shaped lots. Thoreau said he surveyed 52 lots which is correct and the average lot size for the combined quarter acre 38 uniform shaped lots and 14 odd shaped lots equals slightly more than 15 acres, just as Thoreau describes in his handwritten comments: "52 lots of a quarter of an acre and some cases more." Although Thoreau's table of odd shaped lots appears to contain an undercount of 40 rods or 0.25 acre, the error as a percent of the total area is small (0.25/15, or 1.7%).

This survey (number 135) can be difficult to locate on the ground today, but I believe its northeast corner is at the location of Thoreau's birthplace on Virginia Road that is also the current Headquarters of the Thoreau Society. (See map on page 12).

The survey's western most corner that Thoreau refers to as point "A" on his sketch is approximately at the former Headquarters of the Thoreau Society on Old Bedford Road. Marcia Moss, in her catalogue of Thoreau's surveys at the CFPL, believes that this survey shows "the woods back of the old Kettell place on Lexington Road. It was divided into 52 lots and cut in 1849–50."⁵

It is not known whether Thoreau ever described the total acreage surveyed as 15.56 or 15.41 acres other than his notation "907/160=5.6" which should have been 947/160=5.9. Thoreau's survey drawing is accurate in locating and labeling each of the 52 lots.

Thoreau's math error was a minor error, and the final survey document is graphically correct in every respect. Every one of the 52 woodlots is correctly described and only his intermediate summation of the area of 13 irregular lots appears to have an undercount error by a quarter acre. Thoreau's mapping ability evolved over time as he gained experience and acquired new tools (e.g., surveyor's chains, transits, and newly available surveying instructions). Thoreau's library included a copy of *Elements of*

Surveying and Navigation: With a Description of the Instruments and the Necessary Tables by Charles Davies, published in 1847.⁶

Understanding of Thoreau's writing for any given time period will benefit from an awareness of Thoreau's working environment as a surveyor. Thoreau's references to natural features of his time may be related to the location of Thoreau's fieldwork as a surveyor and may still be relevant today.

Notes

¹ This article is based upon research reported in my online journal at: <http://aschmidt01742.wordpress.com/>.

² See The Concord Free Public Library's collection of Thoreau's surveys at http://www.concordlibrary.org/scollect/Thoreau_surveys/133a.htm and http://www.concordlibrary.org/scollect/Thoreau_surveys/133b.htm.

³ See Walling's map note that mentions Thoreau at the CFPL site here: <http://www.concordlibrary.org/scollect/buildinghistories/damonmill/popups/wallingFull.html>.

⁴ Thoreau says in his first sentence of his Field Notes of "Isaac Watt's Woodlot survey of Nov. 1849": "Outlines measured with tolerable accuracy," and I believe he is referring to outlines of the outer perimeter of the woodlot. I see no other interpretation upon visual examination of the survey image at http://www.concordlibrary.org/scollect/Thoreau_surveys/135/135-a.jpg.

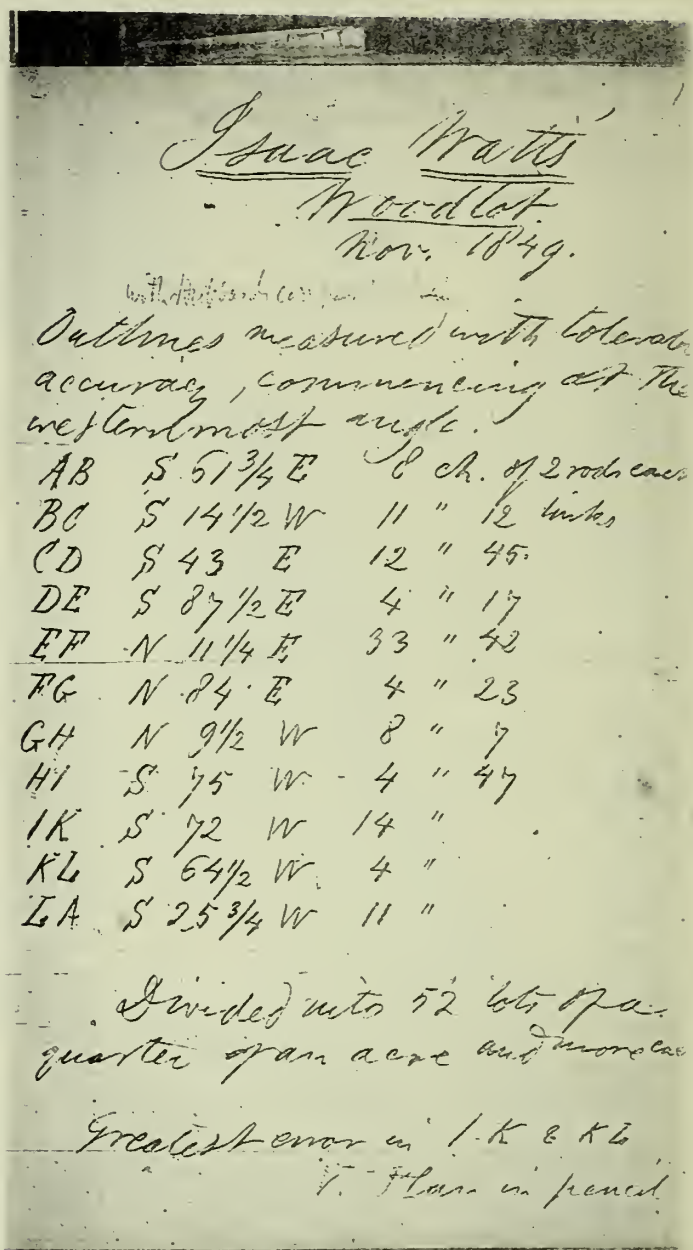
⁵ Marcia Moss. *A Catalog of Thoreau's Surveys in the Concord Free Public Library* (Geneseo, N.Y.: Thoreau Society, 1976).

⁶ Robert Sattlemeyer. *Thoreau's Reading: A Study in Intellectual History With Bibliographical Catalogue* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1988), 163.



Survey 135

By permission of the Concord Free Public Library



Page 1 of Thoreau's Field Notes of Survey's Recorded

By permission of the Concord Free Public Library

Notes & Queries

Kurt Moellering

Thanks to all who contributed to *TSB* 276. **John Rowen** is a vegetation manager for the New York State Department of Transportation and a writer with over 30 years of experience in writing about books, authors, nature and fishing. **Robert Klevay** is an Assistant Professor of English at Auburn University at Montgomery and is currently working on a book about Thoreau's mock-heroic use of Classical literature. **J. Walter Brain** lives in Lincoln, Massachusetts, at a crow's call from Walden Woods. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Thoreau Society and chairs its Finance Committee. A specialist in the research, development, and use of geographic information systems, **Allan H. Schmidt** now explores the application of such technology to historical data. Thanks too to the *Bulletin's* keen-eyed proofreaders: **Bob Hudspeth**, **Dave Bonney**, and **Nicholas Chase**.

Bob Young sends notice of an article in the October 2011 *Smithsonian*, "The Great Pumpkin." In it, author Brendan Borrell gives some respect to Thoreau for his place in the history of pumpkin growing: "The path to prizewinning pumpkins can be traced, improbably, to Henry David Thoreau. In the spring of 1857, while living in Concord, Massachusetts, Thoreau planted six seeds from a French variety called Potiron Jaune Gros de Paris (fat yellow Paris pumpkin). He was astonished that fall when one fruit reached 123.5 pounds. 'Who would have believed that there were 310 pounds of Potiron Jaune Grosse in that corner of my garden?' [Thoreau] wrote in *Wild Fruits*." Bob also brings two books to our attention. From *The Way is Made By Walking: A Pilgrimage Along the Camino de Santiago*, by Arthur Paul Boers: "Some claim that saunter comes from the French, Saint Terre or 'Holy Land,' a reference to pilgrimages to Palestine. (Or so Thoreau asserted; he was not too shabby when it came to walking, often doing so four hours a day.) I like to think that walking makes any place holy" (32). And from *A Thomas Merton Reader, Revised Edition*, editor Thomas P. McDonnell writes, "The physical journey as well as the spiritual one, the psychological and cultural modes of searching, are all important ways of looking at Thomas Merton's life and thought. Somewhat like Henry Thoreau, who admitted to not having traveled much beyond the outer limits of his own village, Thomas Merton scanned the world and the universe from his own vantage point of his locus within the community of Gethsemane Abbey" (9).

The indefatigable **Dick Winslow** has found a poem by David Oates "Thoreau on Fire Island" in *ISLE*, 18.3 (Summer 2011): 665. Dick also writes of a poignant Thoreau sighting that he found at last July's Annual Gathering. "At the Thoreau rock pile cairn near the cabin sight, I noticed a single sheet paper note lying on the stones. Despite recent rain, the document was in excellent condition, and I left it undisturbed. The note reads verbatim: 'I came to the woods to see you to meet you, to get in touch with you. I came here because I fell in love with your spirit while reading Walden's Higher Laws. In respect of each living being. Cathy from Italy 7/6/11' On an adjacent stone, the writer wrote -- Thank you, Cathy, 7/6/11"

Natasha Shabat sends word of a curious sighting: Lawrence Kerns ("writer, amateur cabin-builder, fan of Thoreau") told a story at the Moth Chicago GrandSLAM. Shabat writes, "The theme was 'Into the Wild,' and his story was about trying to build

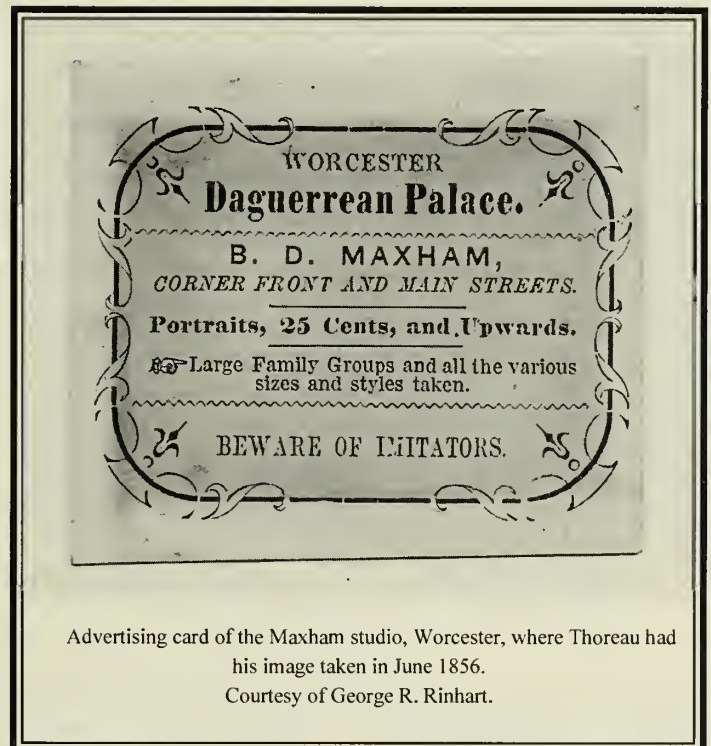
a replica of Thoreau's cabin in his backyard, with his two teenage daughters. It was actually a story about his relationship with his daughters, and involved a lot of concrete and frogs. But still. The storytelling event was on November 28 (2011), and made available this month as the Moth's 200th podcast episode. I just happened to listen to the podcast last night. Go to themoth.org for more info."

Richard Jones finds news of a rather tasty sighting. One that goes particularly well with "grilled red meats, most notably lamb, pork, and goat." Richard writes, "I got a bottle of French red wine labeled: Walden, Cotes du Roussillon Rouge 2008. The back label talks about Thoreau and his cabin at the 'wild lake' in Massachusetts(!). It lists www.walden.fr where there is lots more including a tab "WHY Walden?" that has Thoreau info.

Robert D. Pruessner has discovered an interesting audio reference to Thoreau the pencil maker. John Lienhard of the University of Houston hosts *The Engines of Our Ingenuity*, a radio program "that tells the story of how our culture is formed by human creativity." Episode 339 tells the story of "Thoreau's Pencils." If you go to the site at www.uh.edu/engines, you can listen to the program.

Dale Schwie sends an entertaining article on Thoreau in the December 13, 2011 *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis). In "Technological Disobedience," author Peter Mandel imagines a conversation (using quotes from Thoreau) between Thoreau and a purveyor of a new smartphone. Needless to say, the phone does not have the functions Thoreau requests.

On a more somber note, I am saddened to note the death of long-time Thoreauvian and Society member **Susan Embler Frome**, of Litchfield, Connecticut. She is the wife of member Sheldon Frome, and she passed away December 7, 2011. She was a lover of nature, the arts and believed fervently in being a free spirit. Memorial contributions may be made to The Thoreau Society, 341 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742.



Advertising card of the Maxham studio, Worcester, where Thoreau had his image taken in June 1856.
Courtesy of George R. Reinhart.

Notes from Concord

Michael Frederick
Executive Director

The Thoreau Society represents a global fellowship of individuals and institutions who, like you, believe Thoreau is worth considering and promoting. This year I want to share with you an exciting opportunity to increase the effectiveness of your Annual Appeal donation. The Society's Board of Directors has pledged \$15,000 in matching funds. It has done so because it believes firmly in the organization's Mission to foster educational opportunities around Henry David Thoreau.

This means your gift can be matched 50 cents on the dollar. Our urgent goal is to match \$30,000 in total contributions. The Society is a membership organization, and we need the full support of all members in order to reach our funding needs this year. We are small in numbers, broad in reach—and our existence as a resource to other cultural institutions with an interest in Thoreau is crucial. We have an extensive knowledge base, unique membership network, and a collection on Thoreau in size and scope to be found nowhere else.

Members like you—dedicated readers, followers, and leading scholars—support the Society in promoting Thoreau, but membership and activity fees can cover only a portion of the total cost of running the organization. Like other cultural non-profits, the Society relies on generous contributions from its members and supporters to conduct its programs and activities. Our Board believes in the Mission of the organization and wants to encourage all members to give to the annual appeal this year.

Your support is absolutely critical to our success. At this juncture in time, the Society is collaborating with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to help plan for a new Visitor Center at Walden Pond State Reservation.

We are developing open-access digital resources in collaboration with several universities and historic sites and will begin the second round of grant funding in support of the next iteration of Mapping Thoreau Country. We are outlining the next steps for the Digital Thoreau in cooperation with our partners. And we are planning an extensive Annual Gathering on *Celebrating 150 years of Thoreau's Life, Works, and Legacy*, featuring Edward O. Wilson as our keynote speaker.

Thoreau, who rightfully can be called the father of environmentalism, also deserves iconic status in the scientific fields of ecology and biodiversity studies. With the overdue rapid upsurge in public attention to all three of these domains, the study of the Concord Master naturalist and preservation of his memory becomes all the more important in history.

Edward O Wilson
Museum Comparative Zoology, Harvard University

Your contribution funds our publications, programs, activities, and presence at Walden Pond and Thoreau Farm. Last year, the Society sponsored over twenty programs throughout Concord,

working closely with regional historic sites. We also hosted panels on Thoreau during the Modern Language Association (MLA) Conference in Los Angeles, and helped to organize a series of events in Minneapolis, commemorating Thoreau's 1861 trip.

Your participation is particularly important this year.

****Awards Announcements**** **2012**

The Emerson Society announces four awards for projects that foster appreciation for Emerson.

Graduate Student Paper Award

Provides up to \$750 of travel support to present a paper on an Emerson Society panel at the American Literature Association Annual Conference (May 2012) or the Thoreau Society Annual Gathering (July 2012). Please submit a 300-word abstract by December 20, 2011 to Leslie Eckel at leckel@suffolk.edu and indicate your desire for consideration.

Research Grant

Provides up to \$500 to support scholarly work on Emerson. Preference given to junior scholars and graduate students. Submit a 1-2-page project proposal, including a description of expenses, by March 1, 2012.

Pedagogy or Community Project Award

Provides up to \$500 to support projects designed to bring Emerson to a non-academic audience. Submit a 1-2-page project proposal, including a description of expenses, by March 1, 2012.

Subvention Award

Provides up to \$500 to support costs attending the publication of a scholarly book or article on Emerson and his circle. Submit a 1-2-page proposal, including an abstract of the forthcoming work and a description of publication expenses, by March 1, 2012.

Send Research, Pedagogy/Community, and Subvention proposals to:

Jessie Bray (brayjn@etsu.edu) and Bonnie O'Neill (bco20@msstate.edu)

Award recipients must become members of the Society; membership applications are available at <http://www.emersonsociety.org>

Call for Papers

Thoreau Society Session at the 2013 Modern Language Association Meeting

(to be held in Boston)

Session title: "Recovering Thoreau's Topography"

How have recent projects in digital mapping, biogeography, cultural geography, and environmental history informed and challenged literary scholarship on Thoreau?

Inquiries welcome. Please submit one-page abstracts by March 1, 2012 to:

Rochelle Johnson (rjohnson@collegeofidaho.edu).

Call for Interest

Thoreau Society Graduate Student Working Group

In response to the significant scholarship on Thoreau currently being produced by graduate students, this group will attempt to organize and support graduate students interested in Thoreau. This group would work to promote the interests of graduate students within the Thoreau Society and those who work on Thoreau more generally. This may entail constructing a panel at the Thoreau Society Annual Gathering, forming a writing group, or collecting resources for teaching Thoreau and Transcendentalism. We could also meet socially at the Annual Gathering, ALA, C-19, ASLE and other relevant conferences and establish additional mechanisms for communicating and supporting each other's scholarship, as well as the study of Thoreau in the 21st century.

Interested participants should reply to james.finley@wildcats.unh.edu by 1 March, 2011.

Please include your name, contact information, and academic affiliation as well as any suggestions for what you would like this group to address.

President's Column

Tom Potter

I Hear Henry Call Each Sunrise

You just cannot escape the continuing influence that Thoreau has on the world. We see his words in ads, books which are completely unrelated to Thoreau or Thoreau Studies, on the television, in cyberspace, and radio. And even though I am one thousand miles from Concord and Walden, he calls me every morning.

Just recently I was commenting to my neighbor down the road how his rooster calls me every morning to rise and celebrate the new day. In passing he remarked, "Yeh, Henry is a loud son-of-a-gun." Henry?!! He named his rooster Henry without even knowing who Thoreau was or that I had some distant relation to Henry, so to speak.

So the chanticleer lives on, calling us from our slumber each day as he did so long ago. I will be singing a like song soon as I start another series at the local library where we will *again* be studying *Walden*. One would think that there is nothing new in those pages. But just as my neighbor's rooster calls each new day, there always seems something else that we have missed, something that, given today's circumstances, speaks again from those pages of old.

I am not sure my neighbor will be there, but I will be reminded each morning of Thoreau's presence, as alive in this age as in the past, when the local "Henry" calls the sun to rise once again.

Please submit items for the winter *Bulletin* to your editor before March 15, 2011
kurt.moellering@thoreausociety.org

Although exceptions will occasionally be made for longer pieces, in general articles and reviews should be no longer than 1500 words. All submissions should conform to *The Chicago Manual of Style*. The Thoreau Edition texts (Princeton University Press) should be used as the standard for quotations from Thoreau's writings, when possible. Contributors need not be members of the Thoreau Society, but all non-members are heartily encouraged to join.

The *Thoreau Society Bulletin*, published quarterly by The Thoreau Society™, is indexed in *American Humanities Index* and *MLA International Bibliography*.

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Established in 1941, The Thoreau Society, Inc., is an international nonprofit organization with a mission to stimulate interest in and foster education about Thoreau's life, works, legacy, and his place in his world and in ours, challenging all to live a deliberate, considered life. The Thoreau Society™ has the following organizational goals:

- To encourage research on Thoreau's life and works and to act as a repository for Thoreau-related materials
- To educate the public about Thoreau's ideas and their application to contemporary life
- To preserve Thoreau's legacy and advocate for the preservation of Thoreau country

Membership in the Society includes subscriptions to its two publications, the *Thoreau Society Bulletin* (published quarterly) and *The Concord Saunterer: A Journal of Thoreau Studies* (published annually). Society members receive a 10% discount on all merchandise purchased from The Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond and advance notice about Society programs, including the Annual Gathering.

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Concord Saunterer: A Journal of Thoreau Studies: Laura Dassow Walls, Department of English, 519 Humanities Office Bldg, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208, U.S.A.; tel: (803) 777-2308; e-mail: wallslid@mailbox.sc.edu.

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